

# **Warwick School Committee Minutes**

**Meeting of February 20, 2007**

## **Special Open Session**

**The Warwick School Committee met in Special Open Session at the Administration Building on February 20, 2007. Chairman Friel called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. with the following in attendance:**

### **COMMITTEE**

**Christopher Friel, Chairperson**

**Bethany Furtado, Clerk**

**Joyce L. Andrade    \*Note Ms. Mota-Costa was present (error on minutes)**

**Paul Cannistra**

### **ADMINISTRATION**

**Robert J. Shapiro, Superintendent**

**Victor Mercurio, Director of Secondary Education**

**Robert T. Bushell, Director of Elementary Education**

**Richard D'Agostino, Director Special Services**

**Robert W. Dooley, Director of Business Affairs**

**David E. Small, Director of Buildings and Grounds**

**Rosemary Healey, Esq., Director of Compliance & Human Resources**

**MOTION 2007-54: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to go into closed session for discussion and/or action regarding**

**those items of business exempt from open meetings under General Laws of Rhode Island 42-46-5(a)(1) and (a)(2).**

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

**Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye**

**Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye**

**Paul Cannistra - Aye**

**Open session reconvened at 7:05 p.m.**

**The Chair announced that during Executive Session, the School Committee voted 5-0 to modify the recommendation of the Superintendent in accordance with discussion in Executive Session.**

**MOTION 2007-55: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, to keep the Minutes of the Executive Session for February 20, 2007 private.**

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

**Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye**

**Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye**

**Paul Cannistra - Aye**

**Administrative Reappointments: Superintendent Shapiro recommended the renewals of the school administrators as stated on the list provided to the School Committee, pending satisfactory evaluation. Ms. Mota-Costa commented that she has never had an opportunity to review those evaluations.**

**MOTION 2007-56: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to accept the recommendation of the administrative reappointments.**

**MOTION PASSES (4 ayes 1 abstain)**

**Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - abstain**

**Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye**

**Paul Cannistra – Aye**

**[Victor Mercurio, Robert Bushell, Robert Dooley, Rosemary Healey, Richard D'Agostino, David Small, Denise Bilodeau, John Driscoll, Stephen Lowery, Anne Siesel, Kathleen Desrosiers, Nancy Sinotte, Ronald Poirier, Stephen Saunders, Allen Tinkham, Susan Rooney, Robert Mattis, Mary Fargnoli-Leone, Joseph Crowley, Gerald Habershaw, Dennis Mullen, Stephen Chrabaszcz, Joanne McInerney, Kenneth Sheehan, William Sangster, Candace Caluori, Marie Johnson, William Jutras, Timothy Kane, William McCaffrey, Donald Miller, Joanne Pelletier, Joseph Blecinski, John Livsey, Kathleen Adams, Maureen Areglado, Ronald Areglado, Virginia Bolano, Lynn Conti, Roy Costa, Judith Daniel, Marilyn Feeney, Rosemary Hunter, Stephen Kirby, Kathryn Keenan, Colleen Limoges, Joseph Peltier, Nancy Plumb, Kenneth Rassler, Roy Roberts, Bonnie Robinson, Frank Ricci, Ann Stratton, John Vuono]**

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**Coaching appointments:**

**MOTION 2007-57: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, that the following coaching appointments be approved: Thomas Flanders, assistant coach, girls' lacrosse at Warwick Veterans, and Jean McGarry, head coach, boys' volleyball at Warwick Veterans.**

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

**Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye**

**Joyce L. Andrade – Aye                      Bethany Furtado – Aye**

**Paul Cannistra - Aye**

**New Business:**

**Pre-deprivation hearings/non-renewals:**

**Superintendent Shapiro recommended the non-renewal of the full-time English Language Arts Site Based Literacy coach, the two part-time English Language Arts Site Based Literacy Coaches, the two part-time Math coaches, and the part-time Transitional Advocate for the reasons discussed in executive session.**

**MOTION 2007-58: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent.**

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

**Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye**

**Joyce L. Andrade – Aye                      Bethany Furtado – Aye**

**Paul Cannistra - Aye**

**Resolution regarding health care cost savings: Mr. Cannistra urged the School Committee to support the resolution presented regarding health care cost savings.**

**Resolution relative to the possible health care cost savings**

**Resolved that**

**Whereas, current fiscal conditions, including budget constraints, require responsible budgeting decisions to be made by the School Committee, the City Council, the Mayor and all government officials in order to protect the taxpayers of the City of Warwick; and**

**Whereas, the School Committee believes that it is important to exercise due diligence in examining areas of potential cost savings; and**

**Whereas, one such possible area of cost savings may be in the area of health care costs and health insurance costs; and**

**Whereas, Mayor Avedisian is considering hiring or has hired a consultant to explore possible health care cost savings on the city side of the budget; and**

**Whereas, the School Committee believes that it would be fiscally responsible to also have the consultant examine health care cost savings on the school department side of the budget; and**

**Whereas, this is a matter of importance to the citizens of the City of Warwick.**

**Now, Therefore, be it resolved, the School Committee hereby requests that the Mayor include the school department within the consultant's scope of work to make recommendations to the School**

**Committee concerning possible health care and health insurance cost-savings so that said cost savings may be properly evaluate in light of the City's and school department's fiscal condition; and The Superintendent is hereby directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Mayor and members of the City Council. This Resolution shall take effect upon passage. Sponsored by: School Committee Member Cannistra.**

**Mr. Dooley commented that the City was going out to bid to hire a consultant, and asked if we are agreeing to pay a part of the cost. That will be decided after the resolution is accepted.**

**MOTION 2007-59: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mrs. Andrade, to approve the health care cost savings resolution.**

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

**Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye**

**Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye**

**Paul Cannistra - Aye**

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**Resolution relative to the study of consolidation of Warwick School Department and municipal IT/Telecommunications services: Ms.**

**Mota-Costa urged the School Committee to support this “technology resolution.”**

**Resolved that**

**Whereas, current fiscal conditions, including budget constraints, require responsible budgeting decisions to be made by the School Committee, the City Council, the Mayor and all government officials in order to protect the taxpayers of the City of Warwick; and**

**Whereas, the School Committee believes that it is important to exercise due diligence in examining areas of potential cost savings; and**

**Whereas, one such possible area of cost savings may be in the consolidation of Warwick School Committee and Municipal IT/Telecommunications services, purchases, licenses, inventory, and personnel; and**

**Whereas, Mayor Avedisian is considering hiring or has hired a consultant to explore possible IT/Telecommunications savings on the city side of the budget; and**

**Whereas, the School Committee believes that it would be fiscally responsible to fail to examine the potential cost savings and greater efficiencies of services for our taxpayers by combining services with the School Department side of the budget; and**

**Whereas, this is a matter of importance to the citizens of the City of Warwick.**

**Now, Therefore, be it resolved, the School Committee hereby requests that the Mayor include the school department within the**

**consultant's scope of work to make recommendations to the School Committee concerning possible IT/Telecommunications consolidations so that said cost savings may be properly evaluated or any other cost savings.**

**The Superintendent is hereby directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Mayor and members of the City Council. This Resolution shall take effect upon passage. Sponsored by: School Committee Member Mota-Costa and School Committee Member Cannistra.**

**MOTION 2007-60: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Mrs. Andrade, to amend the "technology savings resolution" by adding [to the "now therefore" clause] – "or any other cost savings.**

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

**Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye**

**Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye**

**Paul Cannistra - Aye**

**MOTION 2007-61: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Mrs. Andrade, to approve the resolution (technology savings) as amended.**

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

**Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye**

**Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye**

**Paul Cannistra - Aye**



**Resolution relative to the contract with the crossing guards.**

**Resolution relative to contract with crossing guards:**

**Resolved that**

**Whereas, current fiscal conditions, including budget constraints, require responsible budgeting decisions to be made by the School Committee, the City Council, the Mayor and all government officials in order to protect the taxpayers of the City of Warwick; and**

**Whereas, the School Committee believes that it is important to exercise due diligence in examining areas of potential cost savings; and**

**Whereas, one such possible area of cost savings may be in the area of privatization of the school crossing guards; and**

**Whereas, our neighboring city of Cranston has achieved substantial savings for their taxpayers by the privatization of the crossing guards there; and**

**Whereas, one hundred twenty days notice is required by the current contract if the City of Warwick determines that it is in the best interests of the taxpayers to decline renewal of the current contract, said deadline being March 1, 2007; and**

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**Whereas, the School Committee believes that it would be fiscally irresponsible to fail to examine privatization of the crossing guards and the potential savings to the taxpayers, while at the same time**

**maintaining the same level of service;**

**Whereas, this is a matter of importance to the citizens of the City of Warwick.**

**Now, Therefore, be it resolved, the School Committee hereby requests that prior to the one hundred twenty day deadline under the current contract, said deadline being March 1, 2007, the City administration formally notify the union representing the school crossing guards that it is exercising its option not to renew the collective bargaining agreement in order to explore the possibility of privatizing the crossing guards and the potential cost savings associate therewith, and that a Request for Proposals (RFP) be immediately issued so that said cost savings may be properly evaluated in light of the City's fiscal condition; and**

**The Superintendent is hereby directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Mayor and members of the City Council. This Resolution shall take effect upon passage. Sponsored by: School Committee Member Cannistra.**

**MOTION 2007-62: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to amend the "crossing guard resolution" by adding (to the 6th whereas clause) "while at the same time maintaining the same level of service.**

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

**Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye**

**Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye**

**Paul Cannistra - Aye**

**MOTION 2007-63: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Ms. Mota-Costa, to approve the resolution (crossing guards) as amended**

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

**Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye**

**Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye**

**Paul Cannistra - Aye**

**MOTION 2007-64: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to adjourn.**

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

**Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye**

**Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye**

**Paul Cannistra - Aye**

**Meeting adjourned: 7:25 p.m.**

**Bethany Furtado, Clerk**

**Betsey Snipes, Secretary**